

STEERING, LEGISLATIVE & GOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE

June 3, 2013

5:30 p.m.

Courthouse

MINUTES:

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Commissioner Jack Black
Commissioner Gary Farley
Commissioner Trey Gooch
Commissioner Jeff Jordan
Commissioner Steve Sandlin
Commissioner Adam Coggin, C

OTHERS PRESENT:

Ernest Burgess Susan Allen
Robert Stevens Lisa Trail
Marilyn Castelli Becky Shelton
Rita Shacklett

Chairman Coggin presided and called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. with six members being present at that time.

MINUTES:

"Commissioner Gooch moved, seconded by Commissioner Farley, to approve the minutes of the last meeting as mailed. This motion passed unanimously by acclamation."

FILL VETERINARIAN VACANCY ON BOARD OF HEALTH:

Chairman Coggin advised an application had been received from Dr. Charles G. Kinard to fill the unexpired term of Dr. John Key on the Board of Health which expires June, 2014. Following discussion,

"Commissioner Farley moved, seconded by Commissioner Sandlin, to recommend Dr. Charles G. Kinard to fill the unexpired term of Dr. John Key on the Board of Health which expires June, 2014. This motion passed unanimously by acclamation."

FILL TWO VACANCIES ON LINEBAUGH LIBRARY BOARD:

Chairman Coggin advised applications had been received from Marilyn Castelli, Lisa Trail and Sandra Estes for appointment to the Linebaugh Library Board. A letter endorsing Marilyn Castelli and Lisa Trail has been received from the Linebaugh Library Board of Directors. Ms. Castelli and Ms. Trail were in attendance and addressed the Committee. Following discussion,

"Commissioner Sandlin moved, seconded by Commissioner J. Jordan, to recommend appointment of Marilyn Castelli and Lisa Trail to serve on the Linebaugh Library Board. This motion passed unanimously by acclamation."

ANNOUNCE TWO VACANCIES ON COMMUNITY CARE BOARD:

Chairman Coggin advised the positions of Mike Nunley and Frankie Johnson on the Community Care Board were expiring and accordingly being announced.

ANNOUNCE VACANCY ON HIGHLAND RIM REGIONAL LIBRARY BOARD:

Chairman Coggin advised the position of Frances James on the Highland Rim Regional Library Board was expiring and accordingly being announced.

COMMISSION VOTING SYSTEM:

Commissioner Robert Stevens addressed the Committee advising it is difficult to access the voting record for Commissioners on the website and the voting board at a meeting has failed on occasion. Mr. Robertson, OIT Director, has told Commissioner Stevens the software that runs the voting machine is sixteen years old and makes it difficult to access the voting record. There is an app that

can be put on the iPads for voting which makes it much easier to put the voting record on the website. The votes will not go to the current board but will be displayed on a screen behind the Mayor. The OIT Department is working on this in-house so there will be little or no cost.

Commissioner Farley advised he wanted to see the app before voting on it. Commissioner Sandlin ask if it would be appropriate to have Mr. Robertson come to the next Steering meeting and show the Committee.

Commissioner Stevens advised the web site is not user friendly to find the information.

Mayor Burgess advised the new app will not interface with the current board.

Chairman Coggin advised he will ask Mr. Robertson to show the Committee the app when it is ready.

Commissioner Stevens advised it is not easy to compare Commissioner votes with other Commissioners.

Mayor Burgess ask for two or three months to research the matter.

ELECTRONIC MESSAGING BETWEEN COMMISSIONERS:

Commissioner Stevens advised Williamson County has a public forum on its website where Commissioners can discuss issues openly and citizens can see the discussion. Mayor Burgess advised it operates in a transparent way. Commissioner Stevens advised the forum is easy to put on the website and will be at no cost. Mayor Burgess advised this is a legal way to have pre-meeting meetings and is strictly for communication between Commissioners. The Committee was advised the public forum is specifically exempted from the Sunshine Law.

Commissioner Stevens provided a proposed Resolution to adopt a plan for creation and use of the internet forum. Mayor Burgess advised Mr. Robertson has pulled information from the Williamson County website and there appear to be only 29 posts.

Mayor Burgess advised he did not know how it would be proven that the Commissioners were not deliberating toward a decision but he understood the forum was legal. Commissioner J. Jordan advised it was hard to believe the forum would be legal much longer and although he had no objection if others wanted to use it he had been told enough about violation of the Sunshine Law which he was not going to do.

Chairman Coggin advised there have been times he would like to have called someone for more information on a topic and he could see the benefit of the forum if it were legal and it may be a tool to better serve constituents in the future.

Commissioner Farley advised he did not have a problem with a Commissioner using it although he probably would not use it.

Commissioner J. Jordan advised it bothers him because they were getting the information before a meeting where the discussion is to be held.

Commissioner Gooch ask if this could be used to bring the County into a lawsuit to challenge the forum and more information is needed from the County Attorney or OIT. Commissioner Farley advised it appeared to be a slippery slope and is a concern. Commissioner J. Jordan advised the written word is open to interpretation.

"Commissioner Farley moved, seconded by Commissioner J. Jordan, to table the issue for now until it needed to be brought back up. This motion was withdrawn."

Chairman Coggin advised this may be a tool to use down the road.

Mayor Burgess advised he had been told to not put items in writing in e-mails and every e-mail written has been subpoenaed in a lawsuit and County officials have to be careful how they communicate.

MERGE PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE AND PROPERTY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE:

Commissioner Stevens advised he previously had a constituent suggest merging the Public Works Committee and Property Management Committee. By merging the two committees, one Commissioner could be added to Purchasing Committee and this would result in six committees with seven Commissioners on each. This would save \$11,000 per year.

Commissioner Sandlin advised Property Management Committee does not meet that often and the unused money goes back into the fund balance. Commissioner Farley advised Chairman McAdoo does not call a meeting unless one is needed and the system is working well and he did not think the committees needed to be merged. Commissioner Sandlin advised the money is not spent if there is no meeting. Commissioner Stevens advised the committee meetings are fairly short and could be consolidated to save money. Commissioner J. Jordan advised if the Committee does not meet then the Commissioner is not paid.

"Commissioner Farley moved, seconded by Commissioner Black, to keep the Standing Committees as they are with separate Public Works Committee and Property Management Committee. This motion passed unanimously by acclamation."

There appearing to be no further business to come before the Committee, Chairman Coggin declared the meeting adjourned at 6:23 p.m.

ADAM COGGIN, Chairman